# 01587

1965/07/14

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287

# INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action NNNNVV MJA612JIA103
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DE RUMJIR 683A 1950800
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Info P 140734Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 140
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Flanigan DATE 6-2-84
DOWNGRADE TO XDS EXT. DATE
TO ADD EXEMPTION(S)
EXCLUDE FROM AUTOMATIC MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY X DOWNGRADABLE X
PROMPT REVIEW
ADD EXEMPTIONS

DEPT PASS DOD FOR SECRETARY MCNAMARA

L I M D I S

EMBTEL 136

JOHNSON SAW BUI DIEM THIS MORNING WHO SAID THAT UNDER "POLITICAL" HEADING FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON'S MEETING WITH GVN KY AND GENERALS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN SEEKING TO ELICIT U.S. VIEWS ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY COURSES OF ACTION IN EVENT PRESENT AND CONTEMPLATED PROGRAMS DO NOT RESULT IN BRINGING ABOUT CESSATION OF DRV AGGRESSION. DIEM SAID

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 683A ~~S E C R E T~~
GENERALS WERE MUCH LESS INTERESTED IN MODALITIES OF NEGOTIATION IN EVENT OF SUCCESS AND HAD LITTLE INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING OF NICETIES OF 1954 AGREEMENTS, A NEW INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINA, ETC. HE SAID KY WOULD MAKE GVN PRESENTATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT TRAN VAN DO WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS A CLOSER ALLIANCE OF ANTI-COMMUNIST FAR EAST COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY BETTER TO DEAL WITH CONTINUED POSSIBILITY OF A BANDUNG II MEETING. JOHNSON SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE LEFT FOR SMALLER DISCUSSION BETWEEN TRAN VAN DO, BILL BUNDY AND HIMSELF.

JOHNSON SAID THAT HE AGREED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF TWO COUNTRIES HAVING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF WAR AIMS BEFORE U.S. CONTRIBUTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES HERE AND THUS URGED THAT BUI DIEM THOROUGHLY BRIEF KY ON OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH QUAT, DO AND BUI DIEM SO THAT HE COULD INDICATE POINTS OF AGREEMENT, OR DISAGREEMENT IF ANY, WITH RESPECT TO BRAOD AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING THAT SEEMED TO EXIST BETWEEN OURSELVES AND QUAT GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, JOHNSON RAISED JULY 20 CELEBRATION. BUI DIEM SAID THAT THEME WOULD BE "UNITY IN THE SOUTH IN PREPARATION FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE

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NORTH". JOHNSON POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "JULY 4TH ORATORY" IS APPROPRIATE ON SUCH AN OCCASION AND THAT SOPHISTICATED OBSERVERS WOULD DISCOUNT SUCH ORATORY, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOT MAKE STATEMENTS INDICATING A MATERIAL DIFFERENCE IN VIEW BETWEEN US IN OUR WAR AIMS AND GIVE AMMUNITION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO THE OPPONENTS OF OUR POLICY HERE, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME THAT MCNAMARA WOULD JUST BE RETURNING TO THE STATES WITH PRESUMABLY SOME NEW RECOMMENDATIONS. JOHNSON POINTED OUT THAT OUR MILITARY OBJECTIVE WAS NOT THE LIBERATION OF THE NORTH AND IT WAS CONTRADICTORY FOR THE GVN TO COMPLAIN OF AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, SAYING THAT IF AND WHEN IT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IT WOULD COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NORTH IN ORDER TO "LIBERATE" IT, ETC., ETC. DIEM SAID HE OF COURSE AGREED AND THOUGHT THAT KY APPRECIATED THE PROBLEM FOR IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET IN JUST THOSE TERMS IN REPLY TO WHICH KY HAD POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS NOT NECESSARILY TALKING ABOUT LIBERATION BY MILITARY MEANS BUT RATHER THE DESIRE TO MAKE AN APPEAL THAT WOULD RAISE THE MORALE OF THE NORTHERN REFUGEES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES. JOHNSON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR EXTREME CARE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SAID WE WOULD PLAN TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH GENERAL KY AT SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER. IN REPLY TO DIEM'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE HAD TURNED DOWN INVITATION FOR THE MISSION TO ATTEND THE MASS DEMONSTRATION ON TUESDAY MORNING BECAUSE OF FEAR OF BEING EMBARRASSED, JOHNSON SAID THAT PRIMARY REASON WAS THE GENUINE ONE OF THAT BEING THE ONLY TIME AVAILABLE FOR PARTY TO VISIT BIEN HOA AND HOP TAC IF ANY TIME WAS TO BE LEFT FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THE AFTERNOON, BUT ADDED THAT IN GENERAL HE ALSO THOUGH IT PERHAPS PREFERABLE FOR THE PARTY NOT TO BE PRESENT AT THE DEMONSTRATION IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY EMBARRASSMENT THAT MIGHT ARISE OUT OF THE ORATORY TO BE EXPECTED. DIEM SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

ON OTHER MATTERS, DIEM SAID HE HAD SEEN QUAT THIS MORNING AND QUAT HAD TURNED DOWN THE AMBASSADORSHIP TO WASHINGTON, STATING THAT HE WANTED TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.
TAYLOR
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 4:30 A.M. JULY 14, 1965

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